- 3. A smart card as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first and second contact areas each comprise a respective set of eight separate electrically conductive contact pads (1-8; 9-13), each set being communicatively coupled to the serial data interface circuit.
- 4. A smart card as claimed in claim 1 wherein the serial data interface operates in conformity with the ISO 7816 standard.
- A smart card as claimed in claim 1 wherein the contact means includes a
 plurality of separate electrically conductive pads (a, b) forming respective
 ground connections of the serial data interface circuit.
- 6. A smart card as claimed in claim 5 wherein said ground connections (a, b) are electrically interconnected.
- 7. A smart card as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ground connections (a, b) extend over the surface of the substrate (102) between the first and second contact areas (104, 105).
- 8. A smart card as claimed in claim 1 which comprises a plurality of said interface means.
- A smart card as claimed in claim 8 comprising two contact means (301, 302),
 located at different ends and on different sides of the smart card.
- 10. A smart card as claimed in claim 1 wherein the substrate (103) is incorporated into a three dimensional structure selected from a cylinder, a sphere, and a cone.
- 11. A smart card reader/writer for reading data and/or writing data to the smart card of claim 1, comprising electrical contact means adapted to provide an electrical contact with the smart card in use and interface means adapted to communicate data via said first and second contact areas via the electrical contact means.



- 12. A smart card reader/writer as claimed in claim 11 when dependent from claim 6, further comprising detector means, said detector means being arranged to detect whether a smart card comprises a pair of connected ground connections.
 - 14. A smart card reader/writer as claimed in claim 11 wherein said electrical contact means comprises at least sixteen electrical contact pins.
 - 15. A smart card reader/writer as claimed in claim 11 wherein said electrical contact means comprises at least two ground contact pins each arranged to form a ground connection with a respective contact area of the smart card in use.
 - 16. A method of reading data from or writing data to a smart card using a smart card reader/writer as claimed in claim 11 said method comprising the steps of:
 - (i) inserting said smart card into said smart card reader/writer;
 - (ii) checking that a PIN accessed by said reader/writer is the same as a PIN stored on said smart card and if so;
 - (iii) reading a key from a first serial data interface of said smart card and using said key to gain access to a second data interface of said smart card.
 - 17. An adaptor comprising:-
 - (i) a smart card as claimed in claim 1 forming a first interface and arranged to allow communication between said adaptor card and a smart card reader/writer,
 - (ii) a second interface arranged to allow communication between said adaptor card and another device in use; and
 - (iii) a converter operable to convert data between formats suitable for said first and second interfaces.